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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

The Nature of the Four Elements

Four Elements *inting, c.* 1510–20
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Date of Composition and Printing, *c.* 1510–20

Reproduced in Facsimile, 1908

19127

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

[Vol. 85.]

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

The Nature of the Four Elements

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The Nature of the Four Elements

The only known copy of the original of this facsimile came to the British Museum from the Garrick Collection. It is now numbered "643 b. 45, impf." Eight leaves are missing in the middle (Sig. D), and the conclusion is also lost. These lacunæ *are indicated by inserted slips in the present edition.*

The date of composition and printing may range between 1510 *and* 1520, *but nothing is known nor can inferences be drawn with any degree of certainty. The author is unknown.*

Mr. Herbert of the Manuscripts Department, British Museum, after comparing this reproduction with the original, says, "The whole collotype is extremely exact in its correspondence with the book, except for a very slightly greater thickness and blurriness throughout." This tendency to over-heaviness in printing, to a certain extent inseparable from collotype work, I hope to reduce to a minimum by using a slightly harder paper for future issues.

JOHN S. FARMER.

¶ A new iuterlude and a mery of the nature of the .iiij. elementꝭ declarynge many ꝓper poyntꝭ of phyloſophy naturall/and of dyuers ſtraunge landys/and of dyuers ſtraunge effectꝭ & cauſis/whiche interlude yf ꝯ hole matter be playd wyl conteyne the ſpace of an hour and a halfe/ but yf ye lyſt ye may leue out muche of the ſad mater as the meſſengers pte/and ſome of naturys parte and ſome of experyens pte & yet the matter wyl de pend conuenyently / and than it wyll not be paſte thꝛe quarters of an hour of length.

¶ Here folow the namys of the pleyers.

¶ The meſſengere/ Nature naturate/ Humanyte Studyous deſire/ Senſuall appetyte/ The tauer ner / Experyence / ygnoꝛaunce/ Alſo yf ye lyſt ye may bꝛynge in a dyſgyſynge.

¶ Here folow dyuers matters whiche be in this interlude conteynyd.

¶ Of the ſytuacyon of the .iiij. elementꝭ that is to ſey the yerth the water the ayꝛe and fyꝛe/ & of theyꝛ qualyteſe and pꝛoperteſe/and of the generacyon & coꝛrupcyō of thyngꝭ made of ꝯ cōmyxtion of them

A.i.

MVSEVM BRITAN NICVM

¶ Of certeyn conclusions pupnge ꝑ the yerth must nedꝭ be roũde & ꝑ it hongyth in ꝑ myddꝭ of the fyr mamẽt/& ꝑ it is in circũferẽce a boue.xxi.M.myle

¶ Of certeyn conclusions pupnge that the see lyeth rounde vppon the yerth.

¶ Of certeyne poyntꝭ of cosmography / as how & where ꝑ see coueryth ꝑ yerth/& of dyuers straũge regyons & landys and whiche wey they lye/and of the new founde landys and ꝑ maner of ꝑ people.

¶ Of the generacyon and cause of stone & metall and of plantis and herbys.

¶ Of the generacyon and cause of well spryngꝭ & ryuers/ and of the cause of hote fumys that come out of the of ꝑ yerth / and of ꝑ cause of the bathys of water in the yerth whiche be ꝑpetually hote.

¶ Of the cause of the ebbe and flode of the see

¶ Of the cause of rayne snowe and hayle

¶ Of the cause of the wyndys and thonder

¶ Of the cause of the lyghtnynge of blasyng sterrys and flamys fleynge in the ayre

THabōdant grace of the power deuyne
whiche doth illumyne ỹ worlde inuyron
Preserue this audyēce and cause them to incline
To charyte this is my peticyon
For by your pacyens and supportacyon
A lytyll interlude late made and preparyd
Before your presence here shall be declaryd
¶ whiche of a few conclusyons is contriuyd
And poyntꝭ of philosophy naturall
But though the matter be not so well declaryd
As a great clerke coude do nor so substancyall
yet the auctour hereof requiryth you all
Though he be vngnorant and can lytyll skyll
To regarde his only intent and good wyll
¶ whiche in his mynde hath oft tymes ponderyd
what nombre of bokꝭ in our tonge maternall
Of toyes and tryfellys be made and imprynty̋d
And few of them of matter substancyall
For though many make bokꝭ yet vnneth ye shall
In our englyshe tonge fynde any warkꝭ
Of connynge that is regardyd by clerkꝭ
¶ The grekꝭ the romayns with many other mo
In their moder tonge wrot warkꝭ excellent
Than yf clerkꝭ in this realme wolde take payn so

Conſyderyng that our tonge is now ſuffycyent
To expoun any hard ſentence euydent
They myght yf they wolde in our englyſhe tonge
Wryte workys of grauyte ſomtyme amonge
¶ For dyuers prengnaunt wytt' be in this lande
As well of noble men as of meane eſtate
whiche nothynge but englyſhe can vnderſtande
Than yf connynge laten bokys were tranſlate
In to englyſhe/wel correct and approbate
All ſubtell ſcyens in englyſhe myght be lernyd
As well as other people in their owne tongꝫ dyd
¶ But now ſo it is that in our englyſhe tonge
Many one there is that can but rede & wryte
For his pleaſure wyll oft preſume amonge
New bokys to compyle and balatꝫ to indyte
Some of loue or other matter not worth a myte
Some to opteyn fauour wyll flatter and gloſe
Some wryte curyous termꝫ nothyng to purpoſe
¶ Thus euery man after his fantaſye
wyll wryte his conſeyte be it neuer ſo rude
Be it vertuous vycyous wyſedome or foly
wherfore to my purpoſe thus I conclude
why ſhold not than the auctour of this interlude
Utter his owne fantaſy and conſeyte alſo
As well as dyuers other now a dayes do
¶ For wyſedome and foly is as it is takyn

For ỹ one callyth wyſedome a nother callyth folye
yet amonge moſte folke that man is holdyn
moſte wyſe/whiche to be ryche ſtudyeth only
But he that for a cõmyn welth buſyly
Studyeth and laboryth and lyuyth by goddꝭ lawe
Except he wax ryche men count hym but a dawe
¶ So he that is ryche is euer honouryd
All though he haue got it neuer ſo falſely
The poꝛe beynge neuer ſo wyſe is repꝛouyd
This is the oppynyon moſte cõmynly
Thoꝛowe out the woꝛlde/and yet no reaſon why
Therfoꝛe in my mynde whan that all ſuche dawis
Haue babelyd what they cã no foꝛce of .ii. ſtrawis
¶ For euery man in reaſon thus ought to do
To labour foꝛ his owne neceſſary lyuynge
And than foꝛ the welth of his neyghbour alſo
But what dyuyliſh mynde haue they which muſig
And labouryng all their lyffe do no nother thyng
But hꝛge ryches to their owne poſſeſſyon
Nothyng regardige their neyghbours diſtruccõ
¶ yet all the ryches in the woꝛlde that is
Ryſyth of the grounde by goddys ſendynge
And by the labour of poꝛe mennys handys
And though thou ryche mã haue therof ỹ keppynge
yet is not this ryches of thy gettynge
Noꝛ oughtyſt not in reaſon to be pꝛeyſyd ỹ moꝛe

For by other mēnys labour it is got before
¶ A great wytted man may sone be entrychyd
That labowryth and studyeth for ryches only
But how shall his cōscyens than be discharged
For all clerkȳ affirme that that man prelysely
whiche studyeth for his owne welth prncypally
Of god shall deserue but lytyll rewarde
Except he the cōmyn welth somwhat regarde
¶ So they sey that that man occupyed is
For a cōmyn welth whiche is euer labowrynge
To releue powre people with temporall goodys
And that it is a cōmyn good act to brynge
People from vyce and to vse good lyuynge
Lyke wyse for a cōmyn welth occupyed is he
That bryngyth them to knowlege ꝑ yngnorāt be
¶ But man to knowe god is a dyffyculte
Except by a meane he hym selfe inure
whiche is to knowe goddȳ creaturys that be
As furst them that be of the grosyst nature
And than to know them that be more pure
And so by lytyll and lytyll ascendynge
To know goddȳ creaturys & meruclous werkīge
¶ And this wyse man at the last shall come to
The knowlege of god and his hye magestie
And so to lerne to do his dewte and also
To deserue of his goodnes partener to be
wherfore in this work declaryd shall ye see

Furſt of the elementis the ſytuacyon
And of their effectis the cauſe and generacyon
¶ And though ſome mē thynke this matter to hye
And not mete for an audyence vnlernyd
We thynke for man nothynge more neceſſary
Than this to know though it be not vſyd
Nor a matter more lowe can not be arguyd
For though the elementis goddys creaturis be
yet they be moſt groſe and lowyſt in degre
¶ How dare men preſume to be callyd clerkꝭ
Diſputynge of hye creaturis celeſtyall
As thyngys inuyſyble and goddꝭ hye warkys
And know not theſe viſyble thyngys inferyall
So they wolde know hye thyngꝭ & know nothige
Of the yerth here wheron they dayly be (at all
Nother the nature forme nor quantyte
¶ wherfore it ſemyth nothynge conuenyent
A man to ſtudy and his tyme to be ſtowe
Furſt for the knowlege of hye thyngꝭ excellent
And of lyght matters beneth nothynge to know
As of theſe .iiij. elementis here below
whoſe effectis dayly appere here at eye
Such thigꝭ to know furſt / were moſt mete ſtudy
¶ whiche matter before your preſence ſhortly
In this interlude here ſhall be declaryd
without great eloquence i ryme rudely
Becauſe the compyler is but ſmall lernyd

This worke with rethoryk is not adournyd
For perhappis in this matter muche eloquence
Sholde make it tedyous or hurt the sentence
But because some folke be lytyll dispo[s]yd
To sadnes/but more to myrth and sport
This philosophycall work is myxyd
with merry conseytis to gyue men cõfort
And occasyon to cause them to resort
To here this matter/wherto yf they take hede
Some lernynge to them therof may procede
But they that shall nowe this matter declare
Openly here vnto this audyence
Behold I prey you see where they are
The pleyers begyn to appere in presence
I se well it is tyme for me to go hens
And so I wyll do/therfore now shortly
To god I cõmyt all this hole company

Chic intrat natura naturata Humanyte & Studyous desire portãs figurã

Natura Naturata

The hye myghty most excellent of all
The foũtayn of goodnes verteu & cõnyng
which is eterne of power most potencyall
The preeeyon and furst cause of euery thynge
I meane that only hye nauture naturynge

Lo he by his goodnes hath ordeynyd and create
Me here his mynyster callyd nature naturate
Wherfore I am the verey naturate nature
The immediate mynyster for the preseruacyon
Of euery thynge in his kynde to endure
And cause of generacyon and corrupcyon
Of that thynge that is brought to distruccyon
Another thynge styll I bringe forth a gayne
Thus wonderfly I worke and neuer in vayne
The great world be holde lo deuydyd wõderfly
In to two regyons wherof on I call
The etheriall region with the heuyns hye
Conteynynge the planettys sterris & speris all
The lower region callyd the elementall
Conteynynge these .iiij. elementis be loo
The fyre the ayre the water and yerth also
But yet the elementis and other bodyes all
Beneth / take theyr effectys and operacyons
Of the bodyes in the region etherall
By theyr influens and constellacyons
They cause here corrupcyons and generacyons
For yf the mouyng of a boue sholde onys ceasse
Beneth sholde be nother increse nor decrese
These elementis of them selfe so syngle be
Unto dyuers formys can not be deuydyd
yet they cõmyx to gyder dayly prese

wherof dyuers kyndes of thyngs be ingenderyd
whiche thyngs eft sonys whan they be corrupteyd
vnto element I reduce to his furst estate
So that nothynge can be vtterly annychelate
¶ For though the forme and facyon of any thyng
That is a corporall body be distroyed
yet euery matter remaynyth in his beynge
wherof it was furst made and formyd
For corrupcyon of a body cõmyxyd
ys but the resolucyon by tyme and space
Of euery element to his owne place
¶ For who that wyll take any body corporall
And do what he can it to distroy
To breke it or grynde it into pouder small
To washe to drown to bren it or to dry
yet the ayre and fyre therof naturally
To their owne pper places wyll ascende
The water to the water the yerth to ꝑ yerth tende
¶ For yf hete or moysture of any thynge certayne
By fyre or be water be consumyd
yet yerth or asshes on yerth wyll remayne
So the elementts can neuer be distroyed
For essencyally ther is nowat this tyde
As mushe fyre ayre water yerth as was
Euer before this tyme nother more nor las
¶ wherfore thou man now I speke to the

Remembre that thou art compound and create
Of these elementis as other creaturis be
yet they haue not all lyke noble estate
For plantis and herbys growe and be insensate
Brute bestis haue memory and their wytt fyue
But thou hast all those and soule intellectyue
¶ So by reason of thyne vnderstandynge
Thou hast domynyon of other bestis all
And naturally thou sholdyst desire cõynge
To knowe straunge effect and cauſys naturall
For he that studyeth for the lyfe bestyall
Is voluptuous pleasure and bodely rest
I account hym neuer better than a best

¶ Humanyte.

¶ O excellent prynce and great lorde nature
I am thyne owne chylde and formyd instrument
I beseche thy grace take me to thy cure
And teche me suche scyens thou thinkyst expedyēt

¶ Nature.

¶ Than syth thou art so humble and benevolent
That thynge that is mete for thy capasyte
And good for thy knowlege I shall Instructe the
¶ Furst of all thou must consyder and see
These elementis whiche do ythe other penetrate
And by contynuall alteracyon they be
Of them selfe dayly corrupteyd and generate

The yerth as a poynt or center is sytuate
In the mydds of the worlde/with ꝑ water Joyned
with the ayre & fyre rounde & hole inuyronyd
¶ The yerth of it selfe is ponderous and heuy
Colde and dry of his owne nature ꝑper
Some parte lyeth dry contynually
And parte therof couerid ouer with water
Some with the salt see some with fresshe ryuer
whiche yerth and the water to gyder with all
So Joynyd make a rounde fygure sperycall
¶ So the water whiche is colde & moyst is foũde
In and vppon the yerth fyllynge the holones
In dyuers partis lyinge with ꝑ yerth rounde
yet the hyllys and mounteyns of ꝑ yerth excesse
Take nothynge of hit a way the roundnes
In comparyson bycause they be so small
No more than the prikks do that be on a gall
¶ The ayre whiche is hote and moyst also
And the fyre whiche is euer hote and dry
Ꝑbout the yerth and water Joyntly they go
And compasse them euery where orbycularly
As the whyte a boute the yolke of an egg doth lye
But the ayre in the lower parte moste remaynyth
The fyre naturally to the hyer tendyth
¶ The etheryall region whiche contcynyth
The sterrys and planettys and euery spere

About the elementis dayly mouyth
And couerith them rounde about euery where
Euery sterre and spere in straunge maner
Vppon his owne poles mouyth diuersly
Whiche now to declare were to longe to tary
¶ The fyre and the ayre of their naturys be lyght
Therfore they moue by naturall prouydence
The water bycause it is ponderous in weyght
Mouyth not naturally but by violence
Of the sterris and planett⁹ by whose influence
The see is compellyd to ebbe and flowe dayly
And freshe waters to spryngе contynually
¶ And though ꝑ the water be grose and heuy
yet nothynge so grose as the yerth I wys
Therfore by hete it is vaporyd vp lyghtly
And in the ayre makyth cloudys and myst⁹
But as sone as euer that it grosely is
Gedryd to gyder / it descendyth a gayne
And causyth vppon ꝑ yerth hayle snow & rayne
¶ The yerth because of his ponderosyte
Auoydyth equally the mouyng⁹ great
Of all extremytes and sperys that be
And tendyth to the place that is most quiet
So in the myddys of all the sperys is set
Formast abiect from all maner mouynge
Where naturally he restyth & mouyth nothynge

¶ Marke well now how I haue the shewyd & tolde
Of euery element the very sytuacyon
And qualyte, wherfore this fygure beholde
For a more manyfest demonstracyon
And by cause thou sholdyst not put to oblyuyon
My doctryne/ this man callyd studyous desire
With the shall haue contynuall habytacyon
The styll to exhort more seyens to adquire
¶ For ỹ more ỹ thou desyrest to know any thynge
Therin thou sempst the more a man to be
For that man that desireth no maner cõynge
All that wyle no better than a best is he
why ben the eyes made but only to see
The leggys to bere the body of a creature
So euery thynge is made to do his nature
¶ So lyke wyse reason wit and vnderstondyng
ys gyuen to the man for that thou sholdyst i dede
knowe thy maker & cause of thyne owne beynge
And what ỹ worlde is & wherof thou doest pcede
wherfore it be houyth the of verey nede
The cause of thyngs furst for to lerne
And than to knowe & laude the hye god eternе

¶ Humanyte.

¶ O glorious lorde and prynce moste plesant
Greatly am I now holdyn vnto the
So to illumyne my mynd that was yngnorant

with ſuch noble doctryne as thou haſt here ſhewed
wherfore I promyſe vppon my fydelyte (me
My dylygence to do to kepe in memory
And the for to honour ſtyll ppetually

¶ Studyous deſire

¶ And ſyth it hath pleaſyd thy grace to admyt
Me vppon this man to gyue attendaunce
with thy doctryne here ſhewyd I ſhall ꝺkkyn his
And dayly put hym in remembraunce (wyt
His courage and deſyre I ſhall alſo inhaunce
So that his felycyte ſhall be moſt of all
To ſtudy and to ſerche for cauſys naturall

¶ Nature.

¶ I well than for a ſeaſon I wyll departe
Leuynge you to gyder here both twayne
what I haue ſhewid man pryntwell in thyne hert
And marke well this fygure ꝑ here ſhall remayne
wherby thou maiſt perceyue many thynges more
Concernynge ꝑ matter I ſpake of before (playn
And whan that I ſhall reſort here a gayne
Of hyr poyntꝭ of cõynge I ſhall ſhew ꝑ more

¶ Studyous deſire.

¶ Now humanyte call to your memory
The cõynge poyntꝭ that nature hath declaryd
And though he haue ſhewed dyuers poitꝭ & many
Of the elementis ſo wonderfly formed

yet many other cauſys there are wolde be lernyd
As to knowe the generacyon of thyngꝭ all
Here in the yerth / how they be ingendryd
As herbys plantys well ſpryngꝭ ſton and metall

¶ Humanyte.

¶ Thoſe thyngꝭ to knowe for me be full expediēt
But yet i thoſe poyntꝭ whiche nature late ſhewyd
My mynde in them as yet is not cōtent (me
For I can nō maner wyſe parceyue nor ſee
Nor proue by reaſon why the yerth ſholde be
In the myddꝭ of ꝯ fyrmament hengyng ſo ſmall
And the yerth with the water to be roūde with all

¶ Studyous deſire.

¶ Me thynkyth my ſelfe as to ſome of thoſe poiꝭ
I coude gyue a ſuffycyent ſolucyon
For furſt of all thou muſt nedys graunt this
That the yerth is ſo depe and botom hath non
Or els there is ſome grole thyng hit ſtōdyth vpon
Or els that it hangyth thou muſt nedꝭ conſent
Euyn in the myddꝭ of the fyrmament

¶ Humanyte.

¶ what than go forth with thyne argument

¶ Studyous deſire.

¶ Thā marke well in ꝯ day or in a wynters nyght
The ſone and mone and ſterris celeſtyall
In the eſt furſt they do apere to thy ſyght

P after in the weſt they do downe fall
A rayne in the morowe next of all
wi .xxiij. houres they be come Juſt
To eſt point again where thou ſawiſt them furſt
¶ Than yf the erthe ſhulde be of endles depnes
Or ſhulde ſtande vpon any other groſe thynge
It ſhulde be an impedyment dowtles
To the ſone mone and ſterris in theyr mouynge
They ſhulde not ſo in the eſt agayne ſprynge
Therfore in reaſon it ſemyth moſte conuenyent
The yerth to hange in ỹ myddſ of the fyrmamẽt

Humanyte.

¶ Thyne argument in ỹ poynt doth me cõfoũde
That thou haſt made but yet it ſuyth not ryght
That the yerth by reaſon ſhulde be rounde
For though ỹ fyrmament with his ſterris bryght
Compas aboute the yerth eche day and nyght
yet the yerthe may be playne paduentnre
Quadrant triangle or ſome other fygure

Studyouſe deſyre.

¶ That it can not be playne I ſhall well pue the
Be cauſe the ſterris that a ryſe in the orrent
Appere more ſoner to them that there be
Than to the other dwellynge in the occident

The eclypse is therof a playne experymente
Of the sone or mone which whane it dothe fy
Is neuer one tyme of the day in placys all
Yet the eclyps generally is alwaye
In the hole worlde as one tyme beynge
But whan we that dwell here see it in ỹ mydday
They in the west partis see it in the mornynge
And they in the est beholde it in the euenyng
And why that sholde so be no cause can be found
But onely by reason that the yerthe is rownde

¶ Humanyte.

That reason proueth the yerth at the lest
Two wayes to be rownde I cannot gayne say
Is for to accompt frome the est to the west
But yet not withstondynge all that it may
Lese hys rowndenesse by some other waye

¶ Studyous desyre.

Na no dowte yt is rownde euery where
which I coulde proue thou shoudest not say nay
yf I had therto any tyme and leser
But I knowe a man callyd experyens
Of dyuers instrumentys is neuer without
Cowde proue all these poyntys & yet by his seyẽs
Can tell how many myle the erthe is a bowte

in many other straūge cōclusiōs no dowte
yys instrumentys cowde shew thē so certayn
at euery rude carter shold them playne playn

Humanyte.

Now wolde to god I had ỳ man now here
For the contembtacyon of my mynde

Studyons desyre.

Syf ye wyll I shall for hym enquere
And bryngе hym heder yf I can hym fynde

Humanyte.

Then myght I say ye were to me ryght kynde

Studyous desyre.

I shall assay by god that me dere bought
For cunnyng is the thynge ỳ wolde be sought

Sensuall apetyte.

well hyet quod hykman when ỳ he smot
Hys wyfe on the buttock̄ with a bere pōtt
Aha now god euyn fole god euyn
It is euen the knaue that I wene
Hast thou done thy babelyng

Studyous desyre.

Ye peraduenture what than

Sensuall apetyte. (my dysshyng.

Thā hold downe thy hede lyke a pryety mā & take

Benedicite/ I graūt to the/ this yoūr
And gyue the absolucion
For thy cothsaws/ stande vp Jack daw
I be shrew thy faders sone
Make rome syrs and let vs be mery
with huffa galand synge tyrll on the hery
And let the wyde worlde wynde
Synge frysha Joly with hey trolyloly
For I se well it is but a foly
For to haue a sad mynd
For rather than I wolde vse suche foly
To pray to study or be pope holy
I had as lyf be ded
By gogrys body I tell you trew
I spake as I thynke now eis I be shrew
Euyn my nett felowes hed
Master humanyte syr be your leue
I were ryght loth you to greue
Though I do hym dyspyse
For yf ye knewe hym as well as I
ye wolde not vse his company
Nor loue hym in no wyse
Syr he loketh lyke an honest man
Therfore I merueyll that ye can

This wyse hym depraue

Gen. Though he loke neuer so well
I promyse you he hath a lyze wde smell

Liu. why so I prey you tell

Gen. For he lauerith lyke a knaue

St. Holde your pease syr ye mys take me
what I trowe that ye wolde make me
Lyke to one of your kyn

Gen. Harke syrs here ye not how boldly
He callyth me knaue agayne by polycy
The deuyll pull of his skyn
I wolde he were hangyd by the thzote
For by the messe I loue hym not
we two can neuer a gre
I am content syr with you to tary
And I am so; you so necessary
ye can not lyue without me

Liu. why syr I say what man be ye

Gen. I am callyd sensuall apetyte
All craturs by me delyte
I comforte the wyttys fyue
The tastyng smellyng & syeryng
I refresh the syght and helyng
To all creatures a lyue

For whan the body werith hongry
For lacke of fode or elys thurſty
Than with drynkes pleſaund
I reſtore hym out of payne
And oft refreſhe nature agayne
With delycate dyand
With pleſaunde ſound of armonye
The herynge alwaye I ſatyſfy
I dare this well reporte
The ſmellynge with ſwete odour
And the ſyght with pleſaunte fygour
And colours I comforte
The felynge that is ſo pleſaunte
Of euery member fote or hande
What pleaſure therin can be
By the towchynge of ſoft & harde
Of hote or colde nought in regarde
Excepte it come by me

Hu. Than I cannot ſee the contrary
But ye are for me full neceſſary
And ryght conuenyent.

Stu. yeſyr beware yet what ye do
For yf you forſake my company ſo
Lorde nature wyll not be contente.

Of hym ye ſhall neuer lerne good thyng
Nother vertu nor no other cōnynge
This dare I well ſay

Sen. Mary auaunt knaue I the defye
Dyde nature for byde hym my cōpany
what ſayſt thou therto ſpeke openly

Hu. As for that I know well nay

Sen. No by god I am ryght ſure
For he knoweth well no creature
without me can lyue one day

Hu. Syr I pray you be contente
It is not vtterly myne intente
your company to eryle
But onely to haue cōmunycacyon
And a paſtyme of recreacyon
with this man for a whyle

Stu. well for your pleaſure I wyll departe

Sen. Now go knaue go I beſhrew thy hart
The deuyll ſende the forwarde

Sen. Now by my trouth I meruell gretly
That euer ye wolde vſe the company
So myche of ſuche a knaue
For yf ye do no nother thynge
But euer ſtudy and to be merynge

As he wolde haue you it wyll you bryngē
At the laſt vnto your graue
Ye ſhulde euer ſtudy pryncypall
For to comfort your lyfe naturall
with metis and drynkes dilycate
And other paſtymes & pleaſures a monge
Daūſynge laughynge or pleſaunt longe
This is mete for your eſtate

Hu. Be cauſe ye ſey ſo I you pmyſe
That I haue muſyd & ſtudyed ſuch wyſe
Me thynketh my wyttes wery
My nature deſyreth ſome refreſſhynge
And alſo I haue ben ſo longe faſtynge
That I am ſomwhat hongry

Sen. Cwell than wyll ye go with me
To a tauerne where ye ſhall ſe
Good paſtaunce & at your lyberte
Haue what ſo euer ye wyll

Hu. I am content ſo for to do
yf that ye wyll not fro me go
But kepe me company ſtyll

Sen. Cōpany qō a/ye ꝺ I ſhall poynt deuyſe
And alſo do you good and trew ſeruyce
And therto I plyght my trouthe

And yf that I euer forsake you
I pray god the deuyl take you

Hu. Mary I thanke you for that othe

Sen. I myschyfe on it my tonge too
wyll tryp somtyme what so euer I do
But ye wot what I mene well

Hu. Ye no force let this matter passe
But seydest eui now thou knewyst where
A good tauerne to make solas (was
where is that I prey the tell

Sen. Mary at the dore euyn here by
yf we call any thynge on hye
The tauerner wyll answere

Hu. I prey the than call for hym nowe

Sen. Mary I wyll / How tauerner how
why dostе thou not appere

Tauer. Who is that calleth so hastely

ner. I shrew thyne hert speke softely
I tell the I am not here

Sen. Than I be shrewȳ page of thyne age
Come hyther knaue for thyne auauntage
why makyst thou hit so tow

Ta. For myne auaūtage mary thā I come
Bewaре syrs how let me haue rome
Lo here I am what seyst thou

Sen. Mary thus here is a gentylman I ſay
That nother ete nor dranke this day
Therfor tell me I the praye
yf thou haue any good wyne
Ta. ye ſhall haue ſpayneſhe wyne & gaſcoyn
Roſe coloure whyt claret rampyon
Tyre capryck and maluesyne
Sak raſpyce alycaunt runney
Greke ipocraſe new made clary
Suche as ye neuer had
For yf ye drynke a draught or too
yt wyll make you or ye thens go
By goggs body ſtarke madde
Sen. I wot thou art not without good wyne
But here is a gentylmā hath lyſt to dyne
Canſt thou get hym any good mete
Ta. what mete mayſter wolde ye haue
Hu. I care not ſo god me ſaue
So that it be holſome to ete
I wolde we had a good ſtewyd capon
Sen. As for capons ye can gette none
The kyngys taker toke vp eche one
I wot well there is none to get

Ta. Though all capons be gone what than
yet I can get you a stewed hen
That is redy dyght.
Hu. yf she be fat yt wyll do well
Ta. Fat or lene I cannot tell
But as for this I wot well
She lay at the stewes all nyght.
Hu. Thou art a mad gest be this lyght.
Sen. ye syr it is a felow that neuer faylys
But cãst get my mayster a dyshe of quaismal byrdes swalowes or wagtayls
They be lyght of dygestyon.
Ta. Lyght of dysgestyon for what reason
Sen. For physyk puttyth this reason therto
Bycause those byrdes fle to & fro
And be contynuall mouynge
Ta. Then know I a lyghter mete than ỹ
Hu. I pray the tell me what
Ta. yf ye wyll nedys know at short & longe
It is euyn a womans tounge
For that is euer sterynge
Hu. Syr I pray the let suche fantesies be
And come heder nere & harke to me
And do after my byddynge.

Goo pnruey vs a dyner euyn of the moste
Of all mauer dyllhes both lod and rolle
That thou canst get spare for no colle
yf thou make thre courle

Ta. Thau ye get nother gose nor swane
But a dylhe of dreggys a dylhe of brane
A dylhe of draffe and I trowe than
ye can not get thre worle

Hu. what horlon woldyst thou puruey
Bran draffe & stynkynge dregge I ley
I holde the mad I trowe

Ta. Gogges pallyon layd ye not thus
That I shulde puruey you thre courle
And thefe be courle I nowe (dyllhes

Hu. Thre courle dyllhes qd a
what mad fole thou nys takeft me clene
I fe well thou wotest not what I mene
And vnderstandyst a nys
I mene this wyfe I wolde haue the
To purney mete fo great plente
That thou shoudyst of neceflyte
Serue them at thre courlys
That is to vnderstande at one worde
Thou shuldest bryngе them vnto ye boorde

At thye seuerall tymes.

Ta. What than I se well ye wyll make a feste

Yu. Ye by the rode euyn with the gretest.

Sen. By my trouth than do ye best.
Euyn after my mynde
But ye must haue moze company.

Yu. That is trewe and so wolde I gladde
If I knewe any to fynde

Sen. why wyll ye folowe my counsell

Yu. Ye

Sen. Than we wyll haue Iytell nell.
A pper wenche she daunsith well.
Alyp Jane with the blacke lace.
we wyll haue bounsynge besse also.
And two oz thze pzoper wenchis mo.
Ryght fey and smotter of face.

Yu. Now be it so thou art launce pere.

Ta. Tha I pceyue ye wyll make gode chere.

Yu. why what shulde I els do.

Ta. If ye thynke so best than wyll I
Go before and make all thynge redy.
Agayne ye come therto.

Yu. Mary I pzey the do so.

Ta. Than farewell syzs for I am gone

Hu. And we ſhall folow the anon
without any taryyng
Sen. Then it is beſt ſyr ye make haſt
For ye ſhall ſpende here but tyme i waſt
And do no nother thynge
Hu. Cyf ye wyll let vs goo by and by
Sen. I pray you be it for I am redy
No man better wyllynge
Exeat Sen. & Hu. Intrat Expiés. & Stu.
Now coſyn experyens as I may ſay
ye are ryght welcom to this contrey
without any faynyng.
Expiés Syr I thanke you therof hertely
And I am as glad of your company
As any man lyuynge.
Stu. Syr I vnderſtonde that ye haue be
In many a ſtraunge countree
And haue had grete fylycyte
Straunge cauſes to ſeke and fynde
Ex. Ryght farr ſyr I haue rydden & gone
And ſeen ſtraunge thynges many one
In affryk/europe and ynde
Bothe eſt & weſt I haue ben farr
North alſo and ſeen the ſowth ſterr

Bothe by see and lande
And ben in sondry nacyons
with peple of dyuers condycyons
Stu. Maruelous to vnderstonde.
Syr yf a man haue suche corage
Or deuocyon in pylgrymage
Iheruzalem vnto
For to accompt the nexte way
How many myle is it I you pray
Ex. From hens thyder to goo
Syr as for all suche questyons
Of townes to know the sytuacyon
How ferr they be a sunder
And other poyntes of cosmogrphy
ye shall neuer lerne then more surely
Then by that figure yonder
For who that figure dyd fyrst deuyse
It semeth well he was wyse
And perfyte in this seyens
For bothe the se and lande also
Lye trew and iust as they sholde do
I know by experyens.
Stu. who thynke you brought here this figure
Ex. CI wot not

Stu. ¶ Certes lorde nature
Hym selfe not longe a gone
¶ whiche was here personally
Declarynge hye philosophy
And lafte this figure purposely
For humanytes instruccyon
Er. ¶ Dowties ryght nobly done
Stu. Syr this realme ye knou is callid ēglāde
Somtyme brettayne I vnderstonde
Therfore I prey you poit with your hāde
In what place it shulde lye
Er. ¶ Syr this ys ynglande lyenge here
And this is skotlāde ẏ Joyneth hym nere
Compassyd a boute euery where
with the occian see rownde
¶ And nert from them westwardly
Here by hym selfe alone doth ly
Irelande that holsome grounde
¶ Here than is the narowe seey
¶ o Calyce and Boleyne the next wey
And flaunders in this pte
Here lyeth fraunce nert hym ioynynge
And spayñ southwarde frō thēs stādynge
And portyngale in this quart

This contrey is callyd Italye
Beholde where Rome in ỹ mydd̃ doth ly
And Naples here be yonde
And this lytell See that here is
Is callyd the Gulfe of Uenys
And here venys doth stande
¶ As for almayne lyeth this way
Here lyeth denmarke and norway
And northwarde on this syde
There lyeth Islonde where mẽ do fysshe
But be yonde that so colde it is
No man may there abyde
¶ This See is called the great Occyan
So great it is that neuer man
Coude tell it sith the worlde began
Tyll nowe within this .xx. yere
westwarde be founde new landes
That we neuer harde tell of before this
By wrytynge nor other meanys
yet many nowe haue ben there
¶ And that contrey is so large of rome
Muche lenger than all cristendome
without fable or gyle
For dyuers maryners haue it tryed
And sayled streyght by the coste syde
Aboue .v. thousand myle

¶But what cõmodytes be within
No man can tell nor well Imagin
But yet not longe a go
Some men of this coutrey went
By the kynges noble consent
It for to serche to that entent
And coude not be brought therto
¶But they that were they venteres
Haue cause to curse their maryners
Fals of promys and dissemblers
That falsly them be trayed
Whiche wold take no paine to saile farther
Than their owne lyst and pleasure
Wherfore that vyage and dyuers other
Suche kaytyffes haue distroyed
¶O what a thynge had be than
yf that they that be englysshe men
Myght haue ben the furst of all
That there shulde haue take possessyon
And made furst buyldynge & habytacion
A memory perpetuall
And also what an honorable thynge
Bothe to the realme and to the kynge
To haue had his domynyon extendynge
There into so farre a grounde
Whiche the noble kynge of late memory

The moste wyse prynce the. viij. Herry
Cauſyd furſt for to be founde
And what a great meritorypouſe dede
It were to haue the people inſtructed
To lyue more vertuouſly
And to lerne to knowe of men the maner
And alſo to knowe god theyr maker
Whiche as yet lyue all beſtly
For they nother knowe god ner the deuell
Nor neuer harde tell of heuyn nor hell
Wrytynge nor other ſcripture
But yet in the ſtede of god almyght
The honour the ſone for his great lyght
For that doth them great pleaſure
Buyldynge nor houſe they haue nõ at (all
But wodes/cotſ/and cauys ſmall
No merueyle though it be ſo
For they vſe no maner of yron
Nother in tole nor other wepon
That ſhulde helpe them therto
Copper they haue whiche is founde
In dyuers places aboue the grounde
yet they dyg not therfore
For as I ſayd they haue non yron
Wherby they ſhuld in the yerth myne
To ſerche for any more

¶ Great haboundaunce of woddes ther be
Moste parte by⁊ and pyne aple tre
Great ryches myght come therby
Both pyche and tarre and sope asshys
As they make in the eest landes
By brynnynge therof only
¶ Fyshe they haue so great plente
That in hauyns take and slayne they be
with staues withouten faple
Nowe frenchemen & other haue soũde the
That yerely of fyshe there they lade (trade
A boue an. C. saple
¶ But in the south parte of that contrey
The people there go nakyd alway
The lande is of so great hete
And in the no⁊th parte all the clothes
That they were/is but bestes skynnes
They haue no nother fete
But howe the people furst began
In that contrey o⁊ whens they cam
For clerkes it is a questyon
Other thynges mo I haue in sto⁊e
That I coude tel therof but now no mo⁊e
Tyll a nother season
Stu. ¶ Thã at your pleasure shew some other
yt lyketh me so wel your cõmynige (thige

ye can not talke a mys

Ex. ¶Thã wyl I tozne a gayne to my matter
Of Cosmogryfy where I was erē
Beholde take hede to this
¶Loo eſtwarde beyonde ꝯ great occyan
Here entereth the ſee callyd mediterran
Of .ij. M. myle of lengthe
The Soudans contrey lyeth here by
The great Turke on ꝯ nozth ſyde doth ly
A man of meruelous ſtrengthe
¶This layde nozth pte is callyd europa
And this ſouth pte callyd affrica
This eeſt pte is callyd ynde
But this newe land ſ founde lately
Ben callyd america by cauſe only
Americus dyd furſt them fynde
¶Loo Jherſin lyeth in this contrey
And this be yonde is the red ſee
That moyſes maketh of mencyon
This quarter is India minoz
And this quarter India matoz
The lande of pzeſter Johñ
¶But nozthwarde this way as ye ſe
Many other ſtraunge regions ther be
And people that we not knowe
But eſtwarde on the ſee ſyde

A ꝓynce there is that rulyth wyde
Callyd the Cane of catowe
And this is called the great eest see
whiche goth all a longe this wey
Towardes the newe landis agayne
But whether that see go thyther dyrectly
Or if any wyldernes bytwene them do ly
No man knoweth for certeyne
But these newe landꝭ by all cosmografye
Frome the cane of catous lande cā not lye
Lytell paste a thousande myle
But from those new landꝭ mē may sayle
Estwarde rcht to englāde agaie playne
where we began ere whyle
Lo all this parte of the yerth whiche I
Haue here discryuyd openly
The northe parte we do it call
But the southe ꝑte on the other syde
ys as large as this full and as wyde
whiche we knowe nothynge at all
No whether ꝑ moste ꝑte be lande or see
No whether the people that there be
Be bestyall or connynge
No whether they knowe god or no
No howe they beleue nor what they do
Of this we knowe nothynge

Lo is not this a thynge wooderfull
How that
¶Et subito studyouse desire dicat.

Stu. ¶Pese syr no moze of this matter
Beholde where humanyte cõmeth here

Sen. ¶How sey you maister humanyte
I pray you haue ye not be mere
And had good recreacyon

Hu ¶yes I thanke the therof euery dell
For we haue saryd meruclously well
And had good cõmunycacyon

Ta. ¶what how maister where be ye now

Sen. ¶what I shrewe the what haste hast thou
That thou spekyst so hye

Ta. ¶So hye qõ a I trow ye be mad by saynt
For dyd ye not ere whyle (gyle
Make poyntment openly
To come agayne all to supper
There as ye were to day at dyner
And yet ye poynted not playne
what mete that ye wyll haue drest
Nor what delycate ye loue best
Me thynke you farre ouer sayne

Hul ¶As for myne owne pte I care not
Dresse what mete thou louest spare not
what so euer thou doest best thynke

Ta. ¶Now if ye put it to my lyberte
Of all mete in the worlde that be
By this lyght I loue best drynke
Sen. ¶It semyth by thy face so to do
But my maister wyll haue mete also
what so euer it cost
Ta. ¶By god syr than ye must tell what
Hu. At thy discressyon I force nat
whether it be soden or rost
Ta. ¶Well syr than care not let me a lone
ye shall se that all thynge shall be done
And ordeyned well and fyne
Hu. ¶So I require the hertely
And in any wyse specyally
Let vs haue a cuppe of newe wyne
Tn. ¶Ye shall haue wyne as newe as can be
For I may tell you in pryuyte
Yit was bryed but yester nyght
Hu. ¶But that is nothynge for my delyte
Ta. ¶But than I haue for your apetyte
A cup of wyne of olde claret
There is no better by this lyght
Hu. ¶Well I trust the well I nowe
Ta. ¶But on thynge if it please you nowe
ye se well I take muche payne for you
I trust ye wyll se to me

Hu. Eye I pmyse the get the hens
And in this matter do thy dylygence
And I shall well rewarde the
Sen. By cause thou lokyst for a rewarde
One thynge for the I haue ꝑpared
That here I shall the gyffe
Thou shalte haue a knauys skyn
For to put thy body therin
For terme of thy lyfe
Ca. Now gramercy my gentyll brother
And therfore thou shalt haue nother
For voydynge of stryfe
Sen Nowe farewell gentyll Johñ
Ca· Than farewell fole for I am gone
Sen. I byde torne ones a gayne harke what
yet there is a nother thynge (I sey
wolde do well at our maisters wallynge
Hu. I what thynge is that I the pray
Sen. Mary thus canst thou tell vs yet
where is any rose water to get
Ca. ye that I can well purney
As good as euer you put to your nose
For there is a feyre wenche callyd rose
Dystylleth a quarte euery day
Sen. By god I wolde a pynt of that
were powryd euyn vpon thy pate

Bekȝe all this pȝesence

Ta. ¶ yet I had leuer she and I
where both to gyther secretly
In some cozner in the spence
Foz by god it is a pȝety gyȝle
It is a wozlde to se her whyȝle
Daunsynge in a rounde
O lozde god how she wyll tryp
She wyll bounce it she wyll whyp
ye clene aboue the gzounde

Hu. ¶ well let all suche matters passe I sey
And get the hens and goo thy way
Aboute this other matter

Ta. ¶ Than I goo streyght to fare ye well

Sen. ¶ But loke yet thou remembze euerydell
That I spake of full ere

Ta. ¶ yes I warrant you do not fere

¶ Exeat Tauerner.

Hu. ¶ Goddis lozde seist not who is here now
what studyo9 dessze what newis with you

Stu ¶ ye shall knowe syȝ oz I go

Sen. ¶ what art thou here I se well I
The no knauys the wozse company

Stu. ¶ Thy lewde condyȝyons thou doest styll
As thou art wont to do (occupy

Hu. ¶ But I sey who is this here in pȝesence

Stu. ¶ Syr this is the man callyd experiens
That I spake of before
Hu. ¶ Experyens why is this he
Syr ye ar ryght welcome vnto me
And shall be euer more
Expe. ¶ Syr I thanke you therof hertely
But I assure you feythfully
I haue small courage here to tary
As longe as this man is here
Sen. ¶ why how son what eylyst at me
Ex. ¶ For thou hast euer so leude a pperte
Science to dispyse and yet thou art he
That nought canst nor nought wylt lere
Sen. ¶ Mary quaũt knaue I make god auowe
I thynke my selfe as cõynge as thou
And that shall I proue shortly
I shall put the a questyon now come nere
Let me se how well thou canst answere
How spellest this worde tom Couper
In trewe artografye
Ex. ¶ Tom couper qõ a a wyse questyõ herdly
Sen. ¶ Ye I tel ẏ agayne yet/tom coup how spel
Lo he hath forgotten ye may se (lyst it
The furste worde of his a b c.
Harke fole harke I wyll teche the
P.a.pa.t.c.r.ter.do to gyther tom couper

ys not this a ſoze matter
Loo here ye may ſe hym puyd a ſole
He had moze nede to go to ſcole
Than to come hyther to clatter

Stu. Certeyne this is a ſolucyon
Mete foz ſuche a boyes queſtyon

Hu. Senſuall apetyte I pzey the
Let paſſe all ſuche tryfles and vanyte
Foz a wyle it ſhall not longe be
And departe I the require
Foz I wolde talke a wozde oz two
with this man here oz he hens go
Foz to ſatyſfy my deſyze

Sen. Cwhy goggis ſoule wyll ye ſo ſhoztly
Bzeke poyntment with yonder company
where ye ſhulde come to ſupper
I truſt ye wyll not bzeke pmys ſo

Hu. CI care not greatly yf I do
yt is but a tauerne matter

Sen. CThan wyll I go ſhew them what ye ſey

Hu. CSpare not if thou wylt go thy wey
Foz I wyll here tary

Sen. CThã a dew foz a whyle I tel you playne
But I pmyſe you whã I come a gayne
I ſhall make yonder knauys twayne
To repent and be ſozy

Ex. Nowe I am full glad that he is gone
Stu So am I for good wyll he do none
To no man lyuynge
But this is the man with whome ye shall
I trust be well content with all
And glad of his cõynge
For he hath expownyd connyngly
Dyuers poyntes of Cosmogryfy
In fewe wordes and shorte clause
Hu. So I vnderstande he hath gode science
And that he hath by playne experience
Lernyd many a straunge cause
Stu. Ye syr and I say for my pte
He is the cõyngest man in that arte
That euer I coude fynde
For aske what questyon ye wyll do
Howe the yerth is rounde or other no
He wyll satysfye your mynde
Ex. Why what doute haue ye therin founde
Thynke ye the yerth shulde not be rounde
Or elles howe suppose ye
Hu. One wey it is rounde I must consent
For this man prouyd it euydent
Towarde the eest and occydent
It must nedis rounde be
Ex. And lykewyse from the south to north

Hu. That poynt to ꝓue were cū thāke worth
Ex. Yes that I can well ꝓue
For this ye knowe as well as I
ye se the north starre in the skye
Marke well ye shall vnethe it spye
That euer it doth remoue
But this I assure you if you go
Northwarde an hundreth myle or two
ye shall thynke it ryseth
And how that it is nere aꝓroched
The poynt ouer the top of your hed
whiche is callyd your zenyth
Yet yf ye go the other wey
Southwarde. x. or. xii. dayes Iorney
ye shall then thynke anon
It discended and come more nye
The sercle ꝓtynge the yerth and skye
As ye loke streyght with your eye
whiche is callyd your ozyson
But ye may go southwarde so farre
That at the last that same starre
wyll seme so farre downe ryght
Clere vnder neth your ozyson
That syght therof can you haue non
The yerth wyll stop your syght
This ꝓuyth of necessyte

That the yerth must nedis rounde be
This conclusyon doth it trye

Hu. Nowe that is the ꝑpetist conclusyon
That euer I herde for by reason
No man may hit deuye
But sir if that a man sayle farre
Upon the see wyll than that starre
Do there as on the grounde

Ex. Tye doutles sayle northwarde ryse it wyl
And sayle southwarde it falleth styl
And that prouyth the see rounde

Stu. So dothe it in myne oppynyon
But knowe you any other conclusyon
To proue it rounde saue that alone

Ex. Tye that I knowe ryght well
As thus marke well whan ꝑ see is clere
That no storme nor wawe therō doth pere
This maryners can tell
Than if a fyre be made on nyght
Upon the shore that gyueth great lyght
And a shyp in the see farre
They in the toppe the fyre se shall
And they on hache nothynge at all
yet they on haches be nerē
Also on the see where men be saylynge
Farre frome lande they se nothynge

But the water and the ſkye
yet whan they drawe the lande more nere
Than the hyll toppes begyn to apere
Styll the nere more hye and hye
As though they were ſtyll growynge faſte
Out of the ſee tyll at laſte
whan they come the ſhore to
They ſe the hyll toppe fote and all
whiche thynge ſo coude not be fall
But the ſee lay rounde alſo

Hu. Me thynketh your argumēt ſō what hard

Ex. ¶ Than ye ſhall haue it more playnly
If ye haue great deſyre (declared
For here loo by myne inſtrumentis
I can ſhew the playne exprimentſ

Hu. ¶ Therto I you requyre

Ex. ¶ with all my herte it ſhall be done
But for the furſt concluſyon
That I ſpake of the fyre
Be this the ſcey that is ſo rounde
And this the fyre vpon the grounde
And this the ſhyp that is here
ye knowe well that a mannes ſyght
Can neuer be but in a lyne ryght

Hu. ¶ Juſt you ſay that is clere

Ex. ¶ Marke well than may not ỹ mānis eye

Signature D, *eight leaves in fours, is missing from the original copy.*

But the water and the skye

With argyng here they[r] [illegible]
That is not worth iij. strawes
I loue not this horeson losophers
Nor this great cõyng extromers
That tell how far it is to the sterres
I hate all maner connyng
I wolde ye knew it I am Ignorance
A lorde I am of gretter pusans
Than the kynge of yngland or fraunce
ye the grettyst lord lyuyng
I haue seruaũt[s] at my retynew
That longe to me I assure you
Here with in yngland
That with me yngnorance dwell styll
And terme of lyfe cõtynew wyll
I boue v C. thowsand
Sen. Gogg[s] naylys I haue payed sõ of thé I
yng. why man what eylyth ỹ so to blow (tro
Sen. For I was at a shrewd fray
yng. Hast thou any of them slayn than
Sen. ye I haue slayn them euery man
Saue them that ran away
yng. why is any of them skapyd & gone
Sen. ye by gogg[s] body euerychone
All that euer were there

E.f..

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John Rastell
1511

yng. ¶ why than they be not all slayne
Sen. No but I haue put some to payne
For one horson there was ꝑ torned again
And streyght I cut of his ere
yng. ¶ Than thou hast made a cut hym purs
Sen. ye but yet I seruyd a nother wors
I smot of his legge by the hard ars
As sone as I met hym there
yng. ¶ By my trouth that was a mad dede
Thou sholdest haue smyt of his hed
Thã he shold neuer haue troublid ꝑ more
Sen. ¶ Tushe than I had ben but mad
For there was a nother man that had
Smyt of his hed before
yng. ¶ Thã thou hast quyt ꝑ lyke a tal knyght
Sen. ye that I haue by this lyght
But I sey can you tell me tyght
where becam my maister
yng. ¶ what he that you call humanyte
Sen. ¶ ye
yng. ¶ I wot neuer except he be
Hyd here in some corner
Sen. ¶ Goggys body and trew ye sey
For yonder lo beholde ye may
Se where the mad fole doth ly

yng. ¶Now on my feyth and treuth it
Yit were euyn great almys
To smyte his hed from his body
Sen. Nay god forbed ye sholde do so
For he is but an innocent lo
In maner of a fole
For as sone as I speke to hym agayne
I shall torne his mynde clene
And make hym folowe my skole
yng' ¶Than byd hym ryse let vs here hym speke
Sen. ¶Now ryse vp maister huddy peke
your tayle totyth out behynde
Fere not man stande vp by and by
I warrant you ryse vp boldly
Here is non but is your frynde
Hu. ¶I cry you mercy maister dere
yng. why what is cause thou hydest the here
Hu' ¶For I was almoste for fere
Euyn clene out of my mynde
Sen' ¶Nay it is the study that ye haue had
In this folysche losophy hath made you (mad
And no nother thynge I wys
yng. ¶That is as trewe as the gospell
Therfore I haue great meruell
That euer thou wylt folowe the counsell
Of yonder two knaues

Of yȝ ye know ryght well this
That when any man is
In other mens company
He muſt nedȝ folow the appyte
Of ſuch thyngȝ as they delyte
Som tyme amonge perdy
yng. But ſuch knaues wold alway haue ȳ
To put all thy mynd & felicite
In this folyſh cõnyng to ſtudy
Which if thou do wyll make ȳ mad
And alway to be penſyf & ſad
Thou ſhalt neuer be mery
Sen. Mery quod a/no I make god auow
But I pȝay ȳ mayſter hark on wozd now
And aunſwere this thyng
whether thought you it better chere
At the tauerne where we were ere
Oȝ elſe to clatter with theſe knaues here
Of theyȝ folyſh cunnynge
Hu. Nay I can not ſay the contrary
But ȳ I had mych myȝyer company
At the tauerue than in this place
Sen. Than yf ye haue any wyt oȝ brayn
Let vs go to the tauerne agayn
And make ſome mery ſolace
yng. yf he wyll do ſo thã doth he wyſely

Hu. By my troth I care not gretely
For I am indyfferent to all company
whether it be here or there
Sen. Then I shall tell you what we wyll do
Mayster ygnorans you & he also
Shall tary both styll here
And I wyll go fet hyther a cõpany
That ye shall here thẽ syng as swetly
As they were angellf clere
¶ And yet I shall bryng hydyr a nother
Of lusty bluddf to make dysport (sort
That shall both daunce & spryng
And tome clene aboue ỹ ground
with fryscas & with gambawdf round
That all the hall shall ryng
¶ And ỹ done with in an howre or twayn
I shall at the towne agayne
Prepare for you a banket
Of metys that be most delycate
And most plesaunt drynkf & wynes ther
That is possyble to get (ate
¶ which shall be in a chamber feyre
Replete with sote & fragrãt eyre
Preparyd poynt deuyse
with damaske water made so well
That all ỹ howse therof shall smell

As it were pardyse
And after that if ye wyll touche
A feyre wenche nakyd in a couche
Of a softe bed of downe
For to satisfye your wantō lust
I shall apoynt you a trull of trust
Not a feyrer in this towne
And whan ye haue taken your delyte
And thus satisfyed the appetyte
Of your wyttis fyue
ye may sey than I am a seruaunt
For you so necessary and plesaunt
I trowe non suche a lyue

Hu. Nowe by the wey that god dyd walke
It cōforthe myne herte to here the talke
Thy mache was neuer seyn

yng. Than go thy wey by and by
And bryng in this company
And he and I wyll here tary
Tyll thou come agayne

Hu. And I prey the hertely also

Sen. At your request so shall I do
Lo I am gone nowe fare well
I shall bryng them in to this hall
And come my selfe formast of all
And of these reuellis be chefe merchall

And order all thynge well

Cyngnorance.

Nowe set thy hert on a mery pyn
Agayns these lusty bludds come in
And dryue fantesys a wey

Hu. And so I wyll by heupn kynge
If they other daunce or synge
Haue a monge them by this day

Cyngn orraunce.

Than thou takyst good & wyse weys
And so shalt thou best please
All this hole company
For the folyshe arguynge ỹ thou hast had
with that knaue experiens ỹ hath made
All these folke therof wery
For all they that be nowe in this hall
They be the most pte my seruaunts all
And loue pryncypally
Disporttis as daunsynge syngynge
Toys tryfuls laughynge gestynge
For connynge they set not by

Hu. I se well suche company euer more
As sensuell appetyte is gone fore
wyll please well this audyens

yng. Eye that I suppose they wyll
But peasse harke I prey the be styll

I wene they be not far hens

¶ Then the daunsers with out the hall syng this wyse and they with in answer or ellys they may say it for nede.

¶ The daunsers & Sensuall.

Peasse syrs peasse now peasse syrs all

¶ Humanyte & yngnorans.

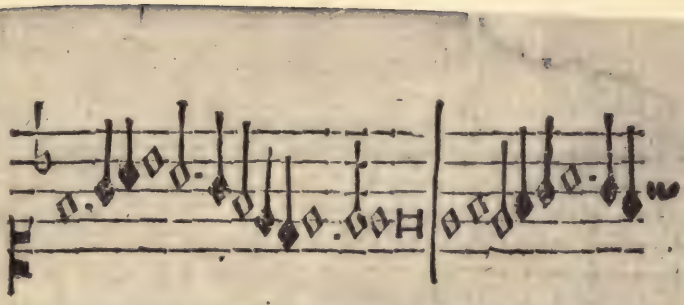
why who is that so hye doth call

¶ The daunsers.

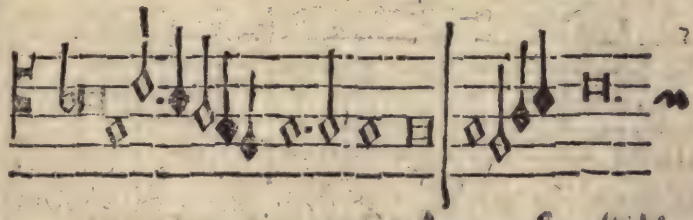
Sylence I say be you among
For we be dysposyd to syng a song

¶ Humanyte & yngnorans.

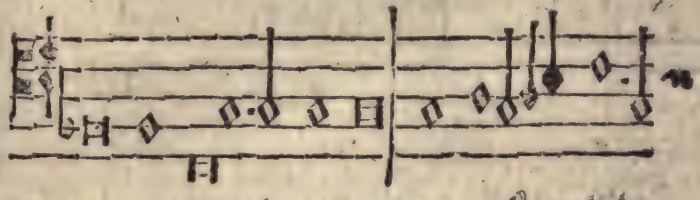
Come in then boldely a mong this presens
For here ye shall haue good audyens.



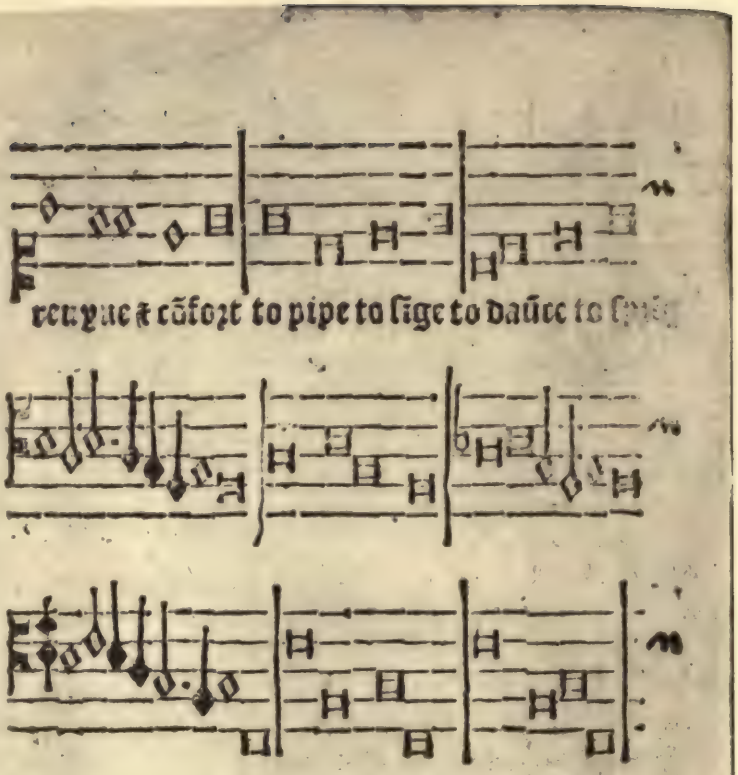
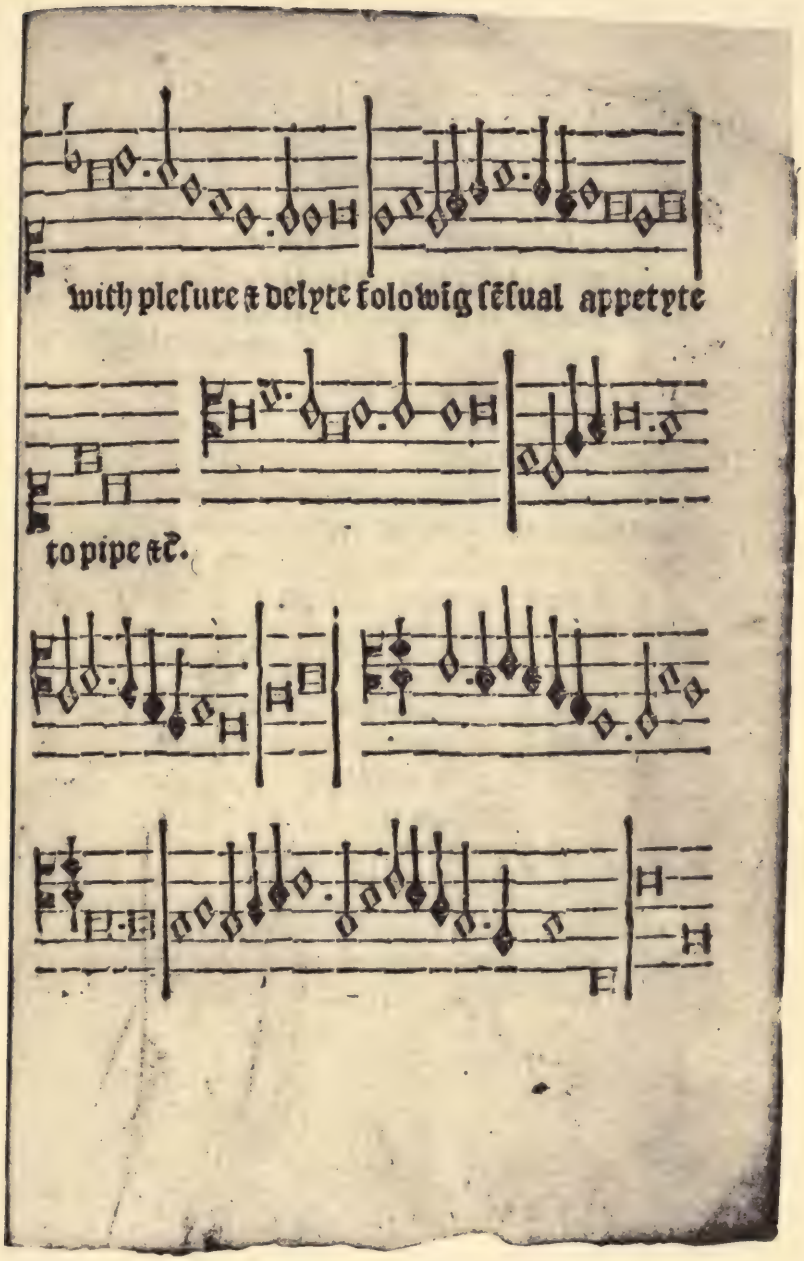
Tyme to pas with goodly ſport our ſpyryt⁹ to



Tyme to pas &c. wyth goodly ſport our ſpyryt⁹ to



Tyme to pas &c. w goodly ſport our ſpyryt⁹ to


reuyue & cõfort to pipe to ſige to daũce to

with plesure & delyte folowig sẽsual appetyte
to pipe &c.

yng. I can you thank ꝑ is done well
It is pyte ye had not a mynstrell
For to angment your solas

Sen. As for mynstrell it maketh no force
ye shall se me daunce a cours
without a mynstrell be it better or wors
Folow all I wyll lede a trace

Hu. Now haue a monge you by this lyght

yng. That is well sayd be god almyght
Make rome syrs & gyt them place

¶ Than he syngyth this song & daunyth with all
And euermore maketh countenaunce accordyng
To the mater & all ꝑ other answer lyke wyle
¶ Daunce we/daunce we. prayunce we prayunce we

So merely let vs daunce ey/ so merely &c
And I can daunce it gyngerly & I &c
And I can fote it by & by & I &c
And I can prayke it ꝑperly
And I can countenaunse comely
And I can broke it curtesly
And I can lepe it lustly
And I can torn it trymly
And I can fryske it freshly
And I can loke it lordly

yng. I can the thanke sensuall apetyte
That is ꝑ best daunce with out a pype

That I ſaw this ſeuen yere

Hu. This daunce wold do mych better yet
yf we had a kyt or taberet
But alas ther is none here

Sen. Then let vs go to ỳ tauerne agayne
There ſhall we be ſure of one or twayn
Of mynſtrellſ ỳ can well play

yng. Then go I pray ye by & by
And puruey ſome mynſtrell redy
And he & I wyll folow ſhortly
As faſt as euer we may

Hu. Ther with I am ryght well content

Sen. Then wyll I go in contynent
And prepare euery thyng
That is metely to be done
And for lacke of mynſtrellſ ỳ mean ſeaſō
Now wyll we begyn to ſyng

Now we wyll here begyn to ſyng
For daunce can we nomore
For mynſtrellſ here be all lackyng
To ỳ tauerne we wyll therfore

Et exeũt cantando ꝛc.

Hu. Now yf that sensuall appetyte cã fynd
Any good mynstrellsy after hys mynd
Dowt not we shall haue good spoꝛt

yng. And so shall we haue foꝛ a suerte
But what shall we do now tell me
The meane whyle foꝛ our cõfoꝛt

Hu. Then let vs some lusty balet syng

yng. Nay syꝛ by ꝑ heuyn kyng
Foꝛ me thynkyth it serupth foꝛ no thyn
All suche peuysh pꝛykyeryd song

Hu. Pes man pꝛykkong may not be dispysy
Foꝛ ther with god is well plesyd
Honowꝛyd pꝛaysyd & serupd
In the churche oft tymes among

yng. Is god well pleasyd trowst thou ther by
Nay nay foꝛ there is no reason why
Foꝛ is it not as good to say playnly
Gyf me a spade
As gyf me a spa ve va ve va ve vade
But yf thou wylt haue a song ꝑ is good
I haue one of robyn hode
The best that euer was made

Hu. Then a feleshyp let vs here it

yng. But there is a boꝛdon thou must bere it
Oꝛ ellys it wyll not be

Hu. ¶ Than begyn and care nocke,
¶ Downe downe downe &c.

yng. ¶ Robyn hode in barnysdale stode
And lent hym tyl a mayll thystyll
Thã cam our lady & swete saynt andrewe
Slepyst thou wakyst thou geffrey coke
¶ A. C. wynter the water was depe
I can not tell you how rode
He toke a gose nek in his hande
And ouer the water he went
¶ He start vp to a thystell top
And cut hym downe a holyn clobe
He stroke ỹ wyn betwene the hornys
That fyre sprange out of the pygg̃s tayle
¶ Jak boy is thy bowe I broke
Or hath any mã done ỹ wyrgu!dy wrage
He plukkyd muskyllys out of a wyllowe
And put them in to his sachell
¶ Wylkyn was an archer good
And well coude handell a spade
He toke his bend bowe in his hand
And set hym downe by the fyre
¶ He toke with hym. lx. bowes and ten
A pese of bese a nother of baken
Of all the bydes in mery englond
So merely pypys the mery botell

Nature.

Cwell Humanyte now I see playnly
That thou hast vsyd muche foly
The whyle I haue ben absent

Hu. Syr I trust I haue done nothynge
That shold be contrary to your pleasynge
Nor neuer was myne intent
For I haue folowed the counsell clere
As ye me bad of studyouse desire
And for necessyte amonge
Somtyme sensuall appetyte counsell
For without hym ye know ryght well
My lyfe can not endure longe

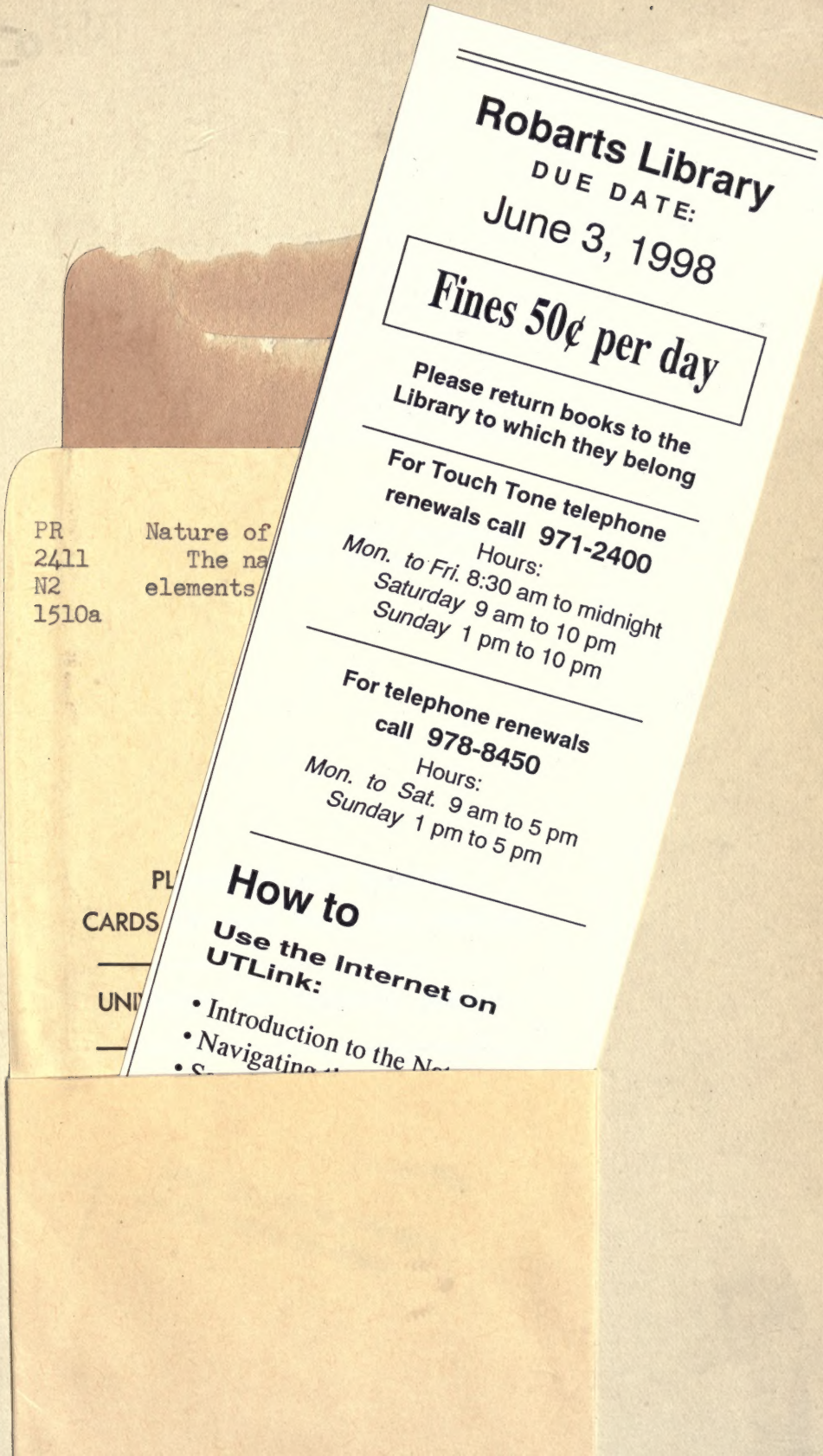
Nature.

Though it be for the full necessary
For thy cõfort somtyme to satysfy
Thy sensuall appetyte
yet it is not conuenyent for the
To put therin thy felycyte
And all thy hole delyte
For if thou wylt lerne no scyens
Nother by study nor experiens
I shall the neuer auaunce
But in the worlde thou shalt dure than
Dyspysed of euery wyse man
Lyke this rude best ygnoraunce

The conclusion of this interlude is lost.

Nature.

Cwell Humanyte now Ifee playnly



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